

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	Michael Austin
Application No.:	09/966686
Filed:	October 1, 2001
For:	A Method and Apparatus for Contracting, Loading or Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon Expandable Stent Devices
Examiner:	Marc Jimenez
Group Art Unit:	3726

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-7405-US02

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated **April 22, 2004**.

If an extension of time is required to make this response timely and no separate petition is enclosed, Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time sufficient to make the response timely. In the event that this response requires the payment of government fees and payment is not enclosed, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

Please amend the application as follows:

JUN 03 2004

PATENT
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER

TO: Examiner Jimenez

FACSIMILE NO.: 703-872-9306

GROUP ART UNIT: 3726

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover letter): 8

DATE: June 3, 2004

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Following please find a 7 page Amendment in addition to this 1 page Facsimile Transmittal Letter.

If a fee is required, Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350 for any required fees. To the extent that any petition is required to consider this communication, please treat this as such a petition.

Respectfully Submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

Date: June 3, 2004

By: Brendan C. Babcock

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Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306, on June 3, 2004.

Signature: Rebecca M. Painschab
Rebecca M. Painschab